

REMARKS


Claims 1 and 3-27 are pending in the present case and stand rejected by the Examiner. Applicants note that all amendments and canceling of Claims presented herein are made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments or rejections, and solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and directing the Claims to certain preferred embodiments, in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG),¹ and without waiving the right to prosecute the amended or canceled Claims (or similar Claims) in the future.

Claims 15-27 stand rejected for allegedly double-patenting the '880 patent. Claims 1-14 stand rejected for allegedly double-patenting the '574 application. In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer that links the term of the present application to that of the '880 patent and '574 application. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants believe that the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All grounds of rejection of the Office Action of February 26, 2003 having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed fully meets all requirements and that the claims should be passed to allowance.

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¹ 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000).